

Appl. No. : 10/763,977
Filed : January 23, 2004

REMARKS

No amendment is made in this response. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-8, 12, 16, and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The rejection of Claims 1-8, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Imono (US 6,899,949) has been removed in the Advisory Action mailed November 7, 2006.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 13-15, and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The rejection of Claims 9-11, 13-15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Imono (US 6,899,949) is maintained. The Examiner states: "The prior art obviousness rejection of record of claims 9-11, 13-15 and 18 has not been overcome because Imono et al '949 is also prior art under 102(a) due to the filing of its PGPub, US 2003/0219592A1 on Nov 27, 2003, prior to applicants' US filing date of January 23, 2004. Applicants have as yet failed to perfect their foreign priority date, which is necessary to eliminate this ground of rejection."

In response, Applicant herein submits a verified translation of the priority application No. 2003-017040 which has been already made of record in this application. The priority application has the filing date of January 27, 2003 which is earlier than Imono's publication date of November 27, 2003. As can be clear from the translation of the priority document, the currently claimed subject matter is fully disclosed in the priority document. Thus, Imono cannot serve as a 102(a) reference. Accordingly, this 103(a) cannot be maintained. Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION


In light of the Applicant's Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Appl. No. : 10/763,977
Filed : January 23, 2004

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 23, 2006 By: 
Katsuhiro Arai
Registration No. 43,315
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

3244471
122206